

## Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION **1** State which evidence there is in the text and in the chart that ... →▲1

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG **Evidence that gender equality has been achieved**

- In Western countries, the number of working women has increased and nearly equals the number of working men.
- Women have started to take up a number of jobs that used to be considered typically male.
- In about every second US household, women earn more money than men.

**Evidence that gender equality has not been achieved**

- In almost all countries of the world, the vast majority of Members of Parliament and of top managers is male.
- Women still do the bulk of the housework.
- All over the world women continue to suffer from the worst kind of inequality: harassment, physical abuse and rape.
- In the US (as in many other countries) there is still a marked gender pay gap.

EVALUATION **2** What do you personally think about the (present and future) roles ...?

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG **Optimistic view:** In most parts of the world men have been in control for thousands of years. Gender equality is a fairly recent idea. We cannot expect fundamental changes in human behaviour and in human nature to take place within a mere hundred years. No one can deny that there has been a very positive development in recent years, and I am certain this will continue – as some of the evidence in the text suggests. Women take up jobs that used to be reserved for men; the gender pay gap is decreasing; and it is a fact that, girls often do better than boys at school. And none of the girls I know feels that she is disadvantaged in any way. So, it might not be the end of men – but the end of male dominance.

**Pessimistic view:** True gender equality will remain a dream forever because you cannot change human nature. As any neurologist or geneticist will tell you, there are fundamental differences between men and women which account for differences in their behaviour, in their attitude to life in general, in the choice of jobs etc. Boys will be boys, and men will be men. Men tend to be more aggressive and violent, for example – you can control these impulses, but you cannot negate them. If you take a look at the rates of violence against women, particularly rape and sexual abuse in many countries of the world (also in developed, Western countries), there is little room for optimism.